

# CURRICULUM COUNCIL

November 11, 2009

## *Focusing on School Improvement*

### ☐ Summer Curriculum Collaboration Overview & Learning Focused Schools Toolbox

Rene Hoagland and Chris Kratzer from Middleburg Elementary attended the meeting in order to share with us information from the summer curriculum collaboration. Wendy States also shared with us specifics about the social studies session. Information was shared about the process that included teachers from across our intermediate unit (IU 16) getting together to collaborate on what should be taught to students at particular grade levels. During this collaboration, teachers made decisions about standards that were essential, important or compact with respect to delivery of that instruction at their particular grade level. Once standards were prioritized, teachers identified topics that became units of study. In each topic/unit teachers made decisions about what students needed to Know, Understand, or Do in order to learn those particular standards. Teachers created student learning maps, which organized information utilizing essential questions and key vocabulary. All information and timelines were created using the Learning Focused Schools toolbox. Information from the toolbox was demonstrated. Teachers received building copies of the Power Curriculum book, as well as specific logons for access to the prioritized curriculum.

### ☐ Chapter 3 of *Readicide* – Give One | Get One

To save time, the Give One | Get One activity was eliminated. Committee members shared thoughts from chapter three, which included concerns about Accelerated Reader, over-teaching of certain texts, and how we will utilize the information in *Readicide* as teachers.

### ☐ September/October/November Review

- Collected information about department needs and priorities
- Reviewed the District's strategic plan
- Attended Reading Apprenticeship Training
- Engaged in professional reading using *Readicide* by Kelly Gallagher
- Participated in reading strategies activities using
  - Frayer
  - One-pager
  - 3-2-1
  - Give One | Get One
- Conducted a High School Faculty Survey
- Examined PDE's Standards Aligned System
- Received information specific to:
  - Keystone exams
  - PSSA-M
- Discussed needs for school improvement especially with our two schools in warning, Middleburg Elementary & Midd-West High School

## ☐ Future Focus Discussion

The information above was reviewed as a summary/reminder of all the work the council has done so far in order to move towards school & district improvement. We discussed the future focus of the group in order to specifically target areas of need. Currently, we have a school improvement process going for Middleburg Elementary, which included identifying specific areas of weakness and implementing a strategy to address those areas. The second meeting of the Middleburg Elementary school improvement team was held on Friday, November 20, 2009.

The group decided that in order to target specific areas of need we would break apart the core curriculum council to work on coordinating a school improvement team at the high school, and to focus on literacy needs at the middle school level. This plan worked perfectly since the majority of the high school teachers had commitments on this day and an additional meeting was to be held the week following. [Minutes for Wednesday's high school meeting are also attached for your review.] Daphne & Amber will be meeting to discuss the middle school literacy group, and to make plans for future meetings in which other teachers will be invited to attend. Future meetings for the high school group are below.

## ☐ Future Meetings

- December 9 (*For Middle School literacy group only.*)
- January 13
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12

## ☐ Future Meetings – High School – School Improvement Team

- December 3
- December 17



*In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have.*

*-- Lee Iacocca*